

DNREC updates information on nitrate levels found in water at private residences near Mountaire Farms' Millsboro poultry plant

MILLSBORO – The Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control is working with the Delaware Division of Public Health to sample water from wells at private residences in the vicinity of Mountaire Farms' Millsboro poultry processing plant that was recently cited by DNREC for wastewater violations involving excessive levels of nitrates. Water in several recently-sampled wells was found to contain nitrates in exceedance of the national drinking water standard of 10 milligrams per liter (10mg/L).

After the wells at several residences in an area neighboring the plant and its spray irrigation fields returned high levels of nitrates in their drinking water, Mountaire at DNREC's recommendation today began providing bottled water to the affected residences.

Mountaire also agreed to provide bottled water and possibly other water treatment to other areas of concern surrounding the plant that have the potential to be impacted by nitrate contamination. A number of residences nearer the plant already are receiving bottled water from the company.

DNREC also is continuing to work with the Division of Public Health's Office of Drinking Water to expand sampling of private wells at residences that may be affected by nitrates from the Mountaire plant's wastewater discharge.

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